

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-38. (Canceled)

39. (New) Apparatus for determining compliance with parking rules by a vehicle, comprising:

wireless signal receiving means for receiving an enquiry signal, the enquiry signal representing a location selected from a plurality of locations, and comprising an identification of a signal transmitting unit, wherein the identification of the signal transmitting unit comprises an identification representative of the signal transmitting unit type or enquiry type, selected from a plurality of signal transmitting unit types or enquiry types;

a plurality of separate compliance determining means, each being for a selected unit type or enquiry type different from the other compliance determining means; and

means for directing an enquiry signal to a selected one of the compliance determining means appropriate to the type of the transmitting unit or enquiry type; and

rule storage means for storing parking rules relating to the plurality of locations; each compliance determining means being configured to obtain from the rule storage means a rule relating to the selected location, to determine if a vehicle parked at the selected location complies with the rule, and to output a compliance signal representing the compliance determination;

the apparatus further comprising wireless signal transmitting means for receiving the compliance signal from at least one compliance determining means and for transmitting it so that it can be received in use by the signal transmitting unit from which the enquiry signal was received.

40. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of separate processors, each being for a selected unit type or enquiry type and comprising the respective compliance determining means and a respective said rule storage means for the selected unit type or enquiry type.

41. (New) An apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising compliance storage means, the apparatus being configured to record the compliance determination and the identification of the transmitting unit in the compliance storage means.

42. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein the identification of the signal transmitting unit is a secure identification.

43. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein selected separate compliance determining means cannot communicate with one another.

44. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the signal representing a selected location comprises GPS coordinates.

45. (New) An apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the signal representing a selected location comprises GPS coordinates of a vehicle observing unit and coordinates representing the position of the vehicle with respect to the vehicle observing unit.

46. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the coordinates representing the position of the vehicle with respect to the vehicle observing unit comprise the distance of the vehicle from the observing unit, the inclination to the horizontal of the line joining the vehicle and the observing unit and the compass bearing of the line joining the vehicle and the observing unit.

47. (New) An apparatus according to any one of claims 39-46, wherein the plurality of signal transmitting unit types includes a parking purchase unit, the compliance determining means being configured to determine a parking fee to be paid for compliance to occur, the compliance signal further comprising an indication of the fee to be paid, the apparatus further comprising fee payment means for receiving payment of a fee from the parking purchase enquiry unit and for transmitting a further compliance signal to the parking purchase unit when the parking has been successfully purchased.

48. (New) A system for determining compliance with parking rules by vehicle, comprising:

(a) a plurality of wireless signal transmitting units for transmitting enquiry signals representing a location selected from a plurality of locations, the transmitting units being configured to transmit a signal comprising an identification of the signal transmitting unit, the identification of the signal transmitting unit comprising an identification representative of the signal transmitting unit type or enquiry type selected from a plurality of signal transmitting unit types or enquiry types; and

(b) an apparatus comprising:

wireless signal receiving means for receiving enquiry signals from one of

the wireless signal transmitting units which is external to the apparatus;

a plurality of separate compliance determining means, each being for a selected unit type or enquiry means different to the other compliance determining means;

means for directing an enquiry signal to a selected one of the compliance determining means appropriate to the transmitting unit type or enquiry type; and

rule storage means for storing parking rules relating to the plurality of locations; wherein each compliance determining means is configured to obtain, in response to an enquiry signal from a transmitting unit, a rule relating to the respective selected location from the rule storage means, to determine if a vehicle parked at the respective selected location complies with the rule, and to output a compliance signal representing the compliance determination;

wherein the apparatus further comprises wireless signal transmitting means for receiving the compliance signal from at least one compliance determining means and for transmitting it so that it can be received by the signal transmitting unit from which the enquiry signal was received.

49. (New) A system according to claim 48, wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of separate processors each being for a selected unit type or enquiry type and comprising the respective compliance determining means and a respective said rule storage means for the selected unit type or enquiry type.

50. (New) A system according to claim 48, further comprising compliance storage means, the apparatus being configured to record the compliance determination and the identification of the transmitting unit in the compliance storage means.

51. (New) A system according to claim 48, wherein the identification of the signal transmitting unit is a secure identification.

52. (New) A system according to claim 48, wherein selected separate compliance determining means cannot communicate with one another.

53. (New) A system according to claim 48, wherein the signal representing a selected location comprises GPS coordinates.

54. (New) A system according to claim 53, wherein the plurality of signal

transmitting unit types includes vehicle observing units and the vehicle observing units configured to transmit a signal representing a selected location which signal comprises GPS coordinates of the vehicle observing unit and coordinates representing the position of the vehicle with respect to the vehicle observing unit.

55. (New) A system according to claim 54 wherein the coordinates representing the position of the vehicle with respect to the vehicle observing unit comprise the distance of the vehicle from the observing unit, the inclination to the horizontal of the line joining the vehicle and the observing unit and the compass bearing of the line joining the vehicle and the observing unit.

56. (New) A system according to any of claims 48-55, wherein the plurality of signal transmitting unit types includes parking purchase units, the compliance determining means being configured to determine a parking fee to be paid for compliance to occur, the compliance signal further comprising an indication of the fee to be paid, the apparatus further comprising fee payment means for receiving a payment instruction from the parking purchase unit and for transmitting a further compliance signal to the parking purchase unit when the parking has been successfully purchased.